

THE GUIDE TO YOUR STUDENT'S PENNSYLVANIA STUDENT REPORT



Pennsylvania Department of Education

Dear Family,

Every year, Pennsylvania public school children take tests in mathematics, reading, science, and writing. The Student Report explains how your child performed on this year's exams. This guide will help you understand the scores on your child's report and the recommendations for your child. If your child did not take one of the tests, part of the report will be blank. Remember, these tests are only one measure of your child's growth. To learn more, review your child's report card and talk with your child's teacher.

Yours truly,

Carolyn C. Dumaresq

1 Secretary's Greeting.
 This letter is from the Secretary of Education and explains the importance of the PSSA.

2 Table of Contents.
 The Table of Contents indicates page numbers where specific information appears within the Student Report.

3 Your student's information.
 Here you will find your student's name, school, district, date of testing, and grade.

4 Your student's PSSA results.
 This section indicates your student's performance level for the Mathematics, Reading, Science, and Writing assessments.

Table of Contents

Page 1.....	General Overview
Page 2.....	Math, Reading, and Science Detailed Results
Page 3.....	Writing Detailed Results
Page 4.....	Helping Your Student Achieve Success

An Interpretation Guide for this report is available at www.education.state.pa.us (type "student report guide" in the search box) or see your local school district.

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment
www.education.state.pa.us page 1

5 What is your student’s Performance Level?

This indicates your student’s Performance Level for the given subject.

*Please Note: If your student was not tested because the subject is not applicable, “Not Applicable (NA)” will be displayed. If your student did not receive a score, “No Score (NS)” will be displayed.

6 What is your student’s score?

This indicates your student’s PSSA score for the given subject. Additionally, the arrow on the bar graph indicates where your student’s score falls within a performance level. The scores are organized by subject and appear on pages 2 and 3 of the Student Report.

Because each subject has its own individual scale, student’s PSSA scores should not be compared across tested subjects.

7 How did your student perform in each reporting category?

This indicates the total points possible and your student’s performance within each reporting category.

8 Strength Profile.

The Strength Profile provides you with an indication of your student’s performance within each of the reporting categories. The profile measure takes into account the difficulty of the items and can be used to help identify areas in which your student needs to improve and where he or she has performed more successfully.

The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment

PSSA
Performance Level: Proficient
Score: 1432

Your student's score is indicated by the **▲**. If your student were to test again, his or her score would likely remain in the following range: 1372-1492.

Mathematics Reporting Categories	Student's Points	Total Points Possible	Strength Profile ¹		
			Low	Medium	High
Numbers and Operations	7	11	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Measurement	8	11	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Geometry	9	13	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Algebraic Concepts	20	27	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data Analysis and Probability	10	10	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

PSSA
Performance Level: Proficient
Score: 1371

Your student's score is indicated by the **▲**. If your student were to test again, his or her score would likely remain in the following range: 1283-1454.

Reading Reporting Categories	Student's Points	Total Points Possible	Strength Profile ¹		
			Low	Medium	High
Comprehension and Reading Skills	14	22	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Interpretation and Analysis of Fictional and Nonfictional Text	23	30	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

PSSA
Performance Level: Basic
Score: 1213

Your student's score is indicated by the **▲**. If your student were to test again, his or her score would likely remain in the following range: 1188-1238.

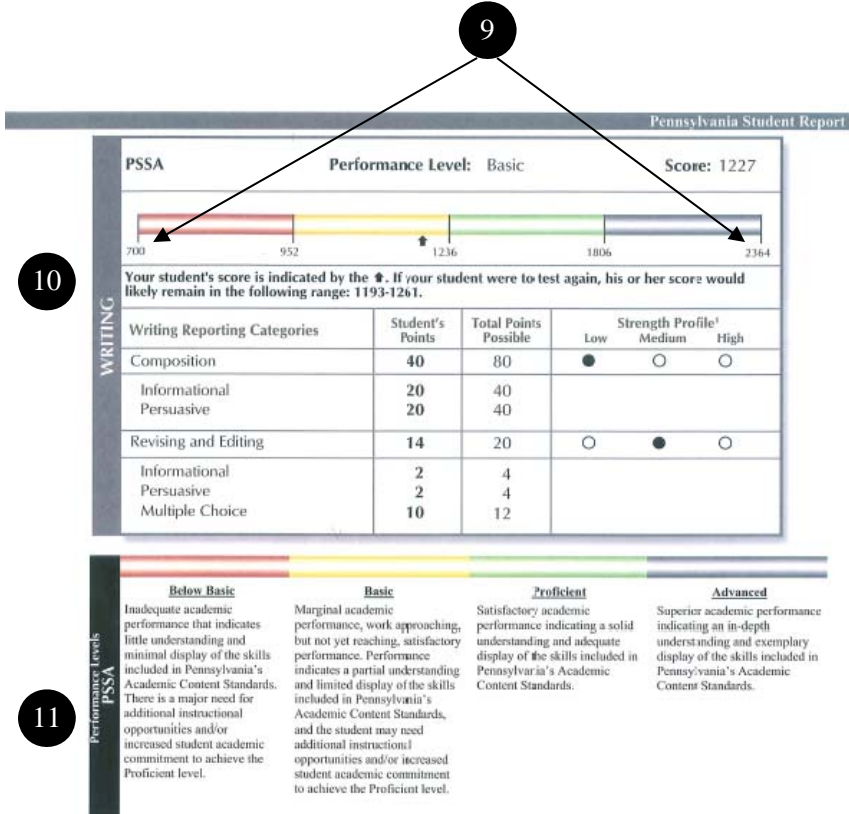
Science Reporting Categories	Student's Points	Total Points Possible	Strength Profile ¹		
			Low	Medium	High
The Nature of Science	23	38	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Biological Sciences	2	12	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Physical Sciences	8	14	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Earth and Space Sciences	2	10	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

9 Minimum/Maximum Scaled Scores.
 The minimum and maximum scaled scores represent the minimum and maximum scores your child could have received on each assessment. Each PSSA test has a minimum score that stays the same across years. However, the maximum score for each test can vary depending on the difficulty of the test each year (a more difficult test in any given year will have a higher maximum score).

10 Standard Error of Measure.
 This range reflects the standard error of measurement (SEM) for your student’s PSSA score. Specifically, it provides reasonable bounds for the range of scores that your student might receive if he or she took an equivalent version of the test. (That is, your student took a test that covered exactly the *same* content, but included a *different* set of items.) As an example, if the PSSA score was 1750 and the SEM band was 1700 to 1800, then your student would be likely to receive a score somewhere between 1700 and 1800 if a different version of the test had been taken.

11 What do the Performance Levels mean?
 This section provides a general description of the Pennsylvania Performance Levels. Student performance on the PSSA falls into four performance levels: Advanced, Proficient, Basic, and Below Basic.

12 Resources for PSSA Information.
 This section lists additional resources for information about the PSSA.



¹The Strength Profile provides you with an indication of your student's performance within each of the reporting categories. The profile measure takes into account the difficulty of the items and can be used to help identify areas in which your student needs to improve and where he or she has performed more successfully.


Note that the performance level line graphs are not drawn to scale because some performance levels have more scaled score points than others. Additionally, the graphs do not display the actual percentage of students in each performance level.

Back Page Text

The back page of your student's report contains information and resources to help guide your student's educational plan and goals. This information may be beneficial in discovering ways to become more involved in your student's education and understanding the importance of your student's education for future success.

Depending on the grade level, the back page messages are designed to be applicable to specific grades to make the message more relevant to your student's tested level.

Grades 3 - 5



How can you help your child achieve success?

Get involved!

- Get to know your child's teachers – don't feel you need to wait for a parent teacher conference. Find out ways that you can regularly speak or correspond with them.
- Participate in school activities – volunteer when you have the time.

Make time at home really count!


- Help your child be ready to learn by making sure he/she gets 8-10 hours of sleep each night and has a good, nutritious breakfast before coming to school.
- Create a regular, fun, comfortable place to study at home at the same time every day.
- Show your pride by hanging up his/her artwork or displaying other fun things that he/she has created.

Make sure your child reads as much as possible.
 Reading at home helps children do better in school. Find books and special programs for families at your regional or neighborhood library. Go to www.statelibrary.state.pa.us to learn about Pennsylvania's POWER Library Initiative or to find a library near you.

Engage your child in mathematics.
 Practice math drills, games and puzzles that challenge your child's ability to think logically and solve real world math problems. Critical thinking is essential for problem-solving in every-day situations, and mathematics provides the needed skills to achieve success.


Remember to make connections!
 Success in school involves more than just reading and mathematics. Children can master these other skills by engaging in enriching activities outside the classroom. Practicing music, for example, can build skills that will be valuable throughout school and life. Remember that taking trips to a museum, a show or a concert is a positive way to strengthen your child's overall education.

What should your child know and be able to do?
 Every school year you can learn about what your child should know and be able to do in each specific content area. You can follow the grade level expectation for each content area and see samples of the type of work students should be producing. Follow this link to find this information: <http://pdesas.org/>



page 4
The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment
www.education.state.pa.us
Data Recognition Corp. 2011 PISA-1208-64261

Grades 6 - 8



How can you help your child achieve success?

Education pays...
 Education pays in higher earnings and lower unemployment rates.

Unemployment rate in 2011 (in %)		Median weekly earnings in 2011 (in \$)	
Less than a high school diploma	14.1	High school diploma	638
Some college, no degree	9.4	Associate degree	768
Bachelor's degree	6.8	Bachelor's degree	1,053
Master's degree	5.9	Master's degree	1,293
Professional degree	2.4	Professional degree	1,665
Doctoral degree	2.5	Doctoral degree	1,551

Average: 7.6% Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Current Population Survey Average: \$797


Preparing your child for college or technical school
 It's not too early! Contact your child's school counselor about creating an academic road map for his/her success. Ask specific questions about the admission requirements, such as what courses your child may need to take during his/her high school years and what college exams and other types of scores may be needed for entrance into any kind of school, training or service. Help your child develop good study skills. Consider the advantage of dual enrollment course work. Continue reading at home and practicing math problems, plan fun activities as a family!

What should your child know and be able to do?
 Every school year you can learn about what your child should know and be able to do in each specific content area. You can follow the grade level expectation for each content area and see samples of the type of work students should be producing. Follow this link to find this information: www.pdesas.org/

Career and Technical Education
 CTE training is available in nearly 90 percent of all school districts in Pennsylvania. Talk to your child's school counselor about whether this type of education fits in with your child's career plans. If possible, visit a nearby CTE school and see firsthand what it offers. Most CTE schools offer several dual enrollment options.

Early career planning

- Free printed materials and career exploration CDs from Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Agency (PHEAA) are available by visiting: www.educationplanner.org
- Visit www.pacareerzone.com for interest surveys and valuable career information.



page 4
The Pennsylvania System of School Assessment
www.education.state.pa.us
Data Recognition Corp. 2011 PISA-1310-64261